

A Day in the Life of the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management

Compiled by Kathy Fletcher, July 18, 2003

I am always amazed, and proud, at the number of community events and activities that our Federal Agencies participate in. What a wonderful way to share our knowledge, and partner with our local communities. Here is a sampling of some of the more recent events that the Fremont-Winema National Forests and the Lakeview District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) participated in.

Some Klamath Falls community events in April, May and June of 2003 were focused on education and other youth issues, such as safety awareness, and drug prevention. The Fremont-Winema National Forests is an active partner in these events through the Partnership for a Drug-Free Klamath County. This program has been active on the Winema National Forest since 1992. Michael Kaibel, RECOVERY Project Program Manager, submitted the first four events.

April 12th

Smokey and friends attended the **Children's Learning Fair**, while Forest Service volunteers helped with children's activities. The Children's Learning Fair is a long-standing community "interactive" fair for the whole family presented in a safe, drug and tobacco free environment. Children ages 2 and up made arts and crafts to take home, and were involved with hands-on exploration and discovery activities. Over 600 children attended, an increase of 30 percent from last year.

May 14th

Fremont-Winema National Forests volunteers supported the **Integral Youth Services Conference**. Integral Youth Services serves Klamath County's at-risk children, from providing safe-homes to continuing education for homeless youth.

May 29th

The 6th annual **Klamath Prevention Summit** was attended by representatives of the Fremont-Winema National Forests, along with key leaders and elected officials in Klamath County, who participated in a group-problem-solving process.

Topics included budget reductions affecting all services in Klamath County. There were panels on public safety, education, and social services. Approximately 60 local agencies, and youth from various Middle Schools, High Schools, and youth organizations, participated in the discussions and planning process.

May 31st

Fremont-Winema National Forests provided support and assistance in the first annual **Run For A Child... It's Good For Your Heart** community event to raise awareness of child abuse, and the shortage of foster care homes in Klamath County. Over a dozen organizations such as Fire, Ambulance, Police, Forest Service, Girl Scouts, Red Cross, and local businesses, provided family-friendly activities, food, music, and community education materials.

More than 100 participants signed up for the early morning Foster/Adoptive Parent Association run or walk event. A local running club, the Linkville Lopers, assisted with the run/walk event, and race materials were provided by "Runner's World" magazine. According to Michael Kaibel, "Fun was had by all and we're looking forward to next year's event."



May 30th – Submitted by Kelly Hollums, BLM Contact Representative

The Klamath Falls Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) hosted a "Pig Feed" to raise money for Bureau of Land Management's Klamath Falls Resource Area, habitat restoration projects. Members of several local hunting associations attended the event, which raised money through donations.

A total of 90 meals were served during the four-hour dinner. By the end of the evening, voluntary donations totaled over \$1100. In addition to the MDF, other local sportsman groups supporting this event included the Oregon Hunters Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Safari Foundation International, and Pheasants Unlimited. The Hunter-Kelly family of Merrill, OR, donated a 10 week old Black Labrador Retriever puppy for auction; it sold for \$300.

Members of the Mule Deer Foundation have formed excellent working relationships with several BLM staff members over the past few years, collaborating a variety of on-the-ground projects. Some of these projects include the removal of juniper, gathering of bitterbrush seed, and planting of bitterbrush and other native species, all of which provide critical forage for big game populations.

The success of this event is due in large part to *many* Klamath Falls Resource Area employees. Over the past several years, their continued efforts in identifying the need for habitat restoration; developing innovative strategies to address the needs of wildlife in our area; and their work to build relationships with individuals and service groups, has garnered significant respect from the local public. This has allowed the BLM to enter

into meaningful cooperative agreements and successful outreach efforts with local citizens.

June 7th - Submitted by Neil Anderson, Fremont-Winema Fish Biologist

For the second year in a row at the Fourmile Quarry Ponds, the Klamath Ranger District of the Fremont-Winema National Forests hosted a **Kid's Fishing Clinic**, timed to coincide with **Oregon Free Fishing Weekend**. An area approximately 2-acres in size was netted off at the ponds and stocked with nearly 800 catchable rainbow trout.

The time, date, and details of the event were advertised in the local newspaper, on local radio, and with posters in stores of local merchants who partnered with us. Special emphasis was made to reach single parent families, foster children, and the Hispanic community. 213 persons participated in the clinic. 113 children under age 14 registered for the event, and approximately 100 adults attended.

Fishing tackle (prizes) donated by local merchants was distributed at the event through a free raffle.

Approximately 25 employees of the Fremont-Winema National Forests and Klamath Falls Resource Area (BLM) were on site to assist the families in fishing techniques, cleaning fish and fishing ethics. Fishing tackle was provided to those who did not have their own and everyone present was able to fish.

By all accounts the event was a great success!!



June 7th - Submitted by Kathy Fletcher, Public Affairs Specialist



Over 115 guests attended the **Open House** at the newly constructed **Klamath Falls Interagency Fire Center**. In addition, representatives from the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry and the National Park Service participated in greeting guests, conducting tours, wildfire engine demonstrations, serving refreshments and answering questions. Smokey Bear made a couple of appearances for the kids.

The new Interagency Fire Center was completed in the fall of 2002, and occupied in November 2002. It includes two operations buildings, one for fire dispatch and one for airtanker support and dispatch. There is also a new reloading facility that can load retardant into two airtankers at a time!



Kristi Cutler and Kathy Fletcher



The Hoffheins Family

Other Events

May 3rd – **Horse Packing Clinic.** Forest Service and BLM employees staffed two booths at the clinic. They greeting visitors and provided recreation information. A wild horse raffle was hosted by the BLM. The drawing for the wild horse is set for August 9th at the Klamath County Fair.

May 10th - **Migratory Bird Day.** Many Federal and State Agencies provided staffing at booths with birding and wildlife information.

June 5th - A “Firefree” program was filmed at Oregon Institute of Technology. Our very own Ken Paul, Fire Management Officer at Chiloquin Ranger District, Danny Benson and Mindy Sherrieb of Oregon Department of Forestry, led a panel discussion about fire risk and fire prevention.

June 7th - Celebrating Wildflowers. Field trips for the public, hosted by the Lakeview District BLM and the Fremont-Winema National Forests, focused on learning about native plants, plant communities, and fire effects in Lake County.

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